

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION**  
**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 23, 2002**  
**EOB LOBBY AUDITORIUM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Ronald Ogens, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Sterling  
Commissioner Tom Carr  
District Chief John Gallo (Atl)  
Assistant Chief Philip Guercio

OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Fire Administrator  
Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS  
Chief Roger Strock, DFRS  
Chief Edward Sherburne, BCCRS  
Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler, DFRS  
Nick Venuto, IAFF Local 1644  
Neil Shorb, MCFRS  
George Giebel, MCFRS  
Beth Feldman, MCFRS

**Call to Order – Chair Ogens**

The Operations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ogens at 6:20 p.m. in the EOB Auditorium.

**Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2001**

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the Operations Committee minutes from the December 19, 2001 meeting, with the following amendments:**

- *Acquisition of Fire and Rescue Apparatus*, page 1, third sentence should read “Several changes proposed by Fire Administrator Aoyagi based **on** staff review of comments”...
- Page 2, -second paragraph “Chief Baker requested **that** the committee re-examine this issue...”
- Page 2, under *Specialty Team Proposal*, 5<sup>th</sup> sentence: “The fear that **any additional** attacks may”.....

**SECONDED by District Chief Gallo. PASSED unanimously.**

**Truck 2 Status**

A memo has been received from Lt. Jones at Station 2 advising that Truck 2 is now equipped with rescue equipment that meets or exceeds the extrication (i.e. rescue engine) minimum equipment inventory approved by the FRC, and requesting that ECC be advised of this change.

Commissioner Ogens was not aware if the Operations Committee had previously addressed whether all trucks equipped with extrication equipment would automatically be dispatched.

Commissioner Sterling advised that Truck 12 was dispatched on PICs with one pinned when it was closer than the nearest rescue squad, and it was recommended that this procedure be continued for that unit only.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi suggested that rather than consider the TPVFD request as a special request, the Operations Committee should develop an overall strategy on extrication services. Both the Aerial Unit Study and Rescue Squad Study groups have not finalized their reports. The Aerial Unit Study is in the final process and the Rescue Squad Study is waiting for GIS information before finishing a draft report.

Chief Strock expressed concern regarding whether the Takoma Park VFD was aware of this memo, since it did not come from either the Chief or President.

Commissioner Ogens recommended that the Rescue Squad Study group and Aerial Truck Study group address the issue of dispatching aerial trucks carrying rescue equipment and report its findings to the Operations Committee.

Asst. Chief Guercio summarized the prior activities taken by the FRC concerning rescue squads. The FRC was presented with a proposal in 1996 to have six rescue squads, but took no action pending compilation of GIS data and an analysis of population data. The current Rescue Squad Work Group envisions 6 core rescue squads with supplemental rescue capabilities on other units in fringe areas. Their draft report should be published soon.

Commissioner Ogens requested the following:

1. Chief Dwyer contact Chief Jarboe of the TPVFD to clarify the TPVFDs intent on the memo received from Lt. Jones.
2. If the TPVFD intends to request that Truck 2 be dispatched on PICs, then a memo should be sent from the TPVFD making a request, along with appropriate documentation and justification.

### **Breathing Air Plan**

In review of the Breathing Air Plan draft, and comments submitted from a field review, it was the consensus of the committee that additional issues need to be addressed including:

- To develop a plan that outlines procedures and protocol in response to a large scale hazmat incident or terrorist attack requiring a large quantity of SCBA resources for a sustained period of time.
- The need to develop a plan that determines what configuration of breathing air fill resources should be in place for the future including examining options for configuration of resources. This analysis should include identification of logistical needs and fiscal impact.
- A plan should be developed to identify what resources are needed to provide all existing fill stations with blast containment vessels for SCBA, and to determine whether a cascade system should continue to be a required item for the FRC minimum rescue squad inventory. This review should also identify the fiscal impact and a transition plan for implementation.

- The current program of using three satellite SCBA maintenance facilities be evaluated, with consideration given to centralizing this function. This evaluation should include identification of logistical needs (staff, equipment, space requirements, etc.), with a fiscal analysis compared to current cost for this program.

Chair Ogens recommended the Fire Administrator appoint staff and others from the field as appropriate to form a work group to review the draft and consider these issues. When this review is completed, then the revised report should be resubmitted to the Operations Committee for review.

### **Other Business**

Neil Shorb noted that the evening meetings for the Operations Committee on April 24<sup>th</sup> and June 26 are currently schedule in the EOB Auditorium, and he requested if the Committee had a preference regarding meeting location. It was the consensus of the Committee that future meetings be held in the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor conference room unless otherwise advised.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adjourn. SECONDED by District Chief Gallo. PASSED unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.